

CHAPTER 6

PUBLIC UTILITIES

CULINARY WATER SYSTEM

Farmington City is in relatively good shape with regard to its water supply. A Culinary Water System Master Plan was completed in 1990 which took into account the ultimate development of the City, including West Farmington. At the time the Water Master Plan was completed the City operated seven water storage reservoirs with a total capacity of approximately 2.5 million gallons. In addition to this, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District provides up to 500 acre/ft of water to the City annually. City owned culinary water source wells have a combined capacity of 2100 gpm.

The present system has adequate water supply but lacks sufficient storage capacity in the north and south ends of the City. Under normal operating conditions the system is adequately sized but there may be some deficiencies when fire demands are made at particular locations. There is also a concern that smaller pipe sizes in older parts of the system may be contributing to deficiencies in fire supply.

Recommendations:

1. New development should bear its fair share of the cost for expanding the water systems in accordance with applicable law;
2. All undersized pipe should be phased out of the system and replaced with pipe sized to meet projected culinary and fire protection needs as recommended by the Water Master Plan;
3. All development should be reviewed to assure that the capacity of the water system will not be exceeded, and that acceptable levels of service are not compromised.
4. Because the development of new water sources will be relatively expensive, Farmington City should formulate water conservation policies to avoid the need for rapid development of new water sources, thereby maintaining lower average water costs for the City as a whole.
5. Programs should be implemented to educate the public about the danger of cross connections between the culinary and secondary water systems and about the importance of installing back-flow prevention devices where necessary.
6. The City should adopt policies that identify and protect watershed areas, minimize the use of surface waters for culinary water use, and protect groundwater aquifers and sources to avoid expensive treatment options.
7. The City should work with the Federal Government to obtain control of defined and potential watershed areas.

SECONDARY WATER SYSTEM

With proposed growth, the City's culinary water supply will need to be continually evaluated. Extensive use of culinary water for irrigation purposes should be discouraged to preserve capacity

for culinary use and forestall development of new, and expensive, water sources and storage facilities. For this reason secondary water systems for pressure irrigation have been developed. The Farmington Area Pressurized Irrigation District (FAPID) and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, both independent improvement districts, have been established to maintain, extend, and administer these systems.

Recommendations:

1. Because of the relatively high cost of developing new water supplies, all new development in Farmington should provide both culinary and pressure irrigation water systems unless this policy is waived by the City.

2. The City should maintain close ties with all secondary water districts to better coordinate development and maintenance of each of the water systems.

SEWER SYSTEM

All main sewer collection lines in Farmington, and the sewage treatment plant, are owned and operated by the Central Davis County Sewer Improvement District (CDSID), an independent governmental entity. In 1991 all remaining City-owned elements of the sewer system were transferred to the District. Since the availability of sewer service is a significant controlling element in development, Farmington City must work closely with the officials of the CDSID to coordinate goals and policies.

In 1986, the CDSID completed a study of the existing and future problems, and needs of the sewer system. The study identified several areas in Farmington City where lines are currently over capacity, and lines which will be over capacity in the near future. In cases where proposed development would cause significant problems, that development should not be approved until the problems are corrected. The CDSID has developed plans to increase capacity in the critical areas, but has not specified the timing, or the source of funding to implement these plans.

One of the most problematic areas in the City for sewer is the area of Farmington west of Interstate 15. At the present time this area is sparsely developed and nearly all homes are on septic tanks. If the use of septic tanks were to increase significantly, there may be a serious health risk in terms of ground water contamination due to the high water table and soil conditions in that part of the City. The CDSID plan includes this area .

Recommendations:

1. Farmington City should encourage the CDSID Board to prioritize the improvements called for in the 1986 study, and ask them to prepare financing and scheduling plans for the completion of those improvements.

2. Farmington City should actively encourage all future development in Farmington to be connected to sewer lines.

3. All development proposals should be submitted to CDSID for comment before being approved by Farmington City.

STORM DRAINAGE

Farmington City and Davis County completed a Comprehensive Storm Drainage Master Plan

in 1987 for the Farmington area. This plan indicates current storm water drainage needs, currently existing problem areas, and projects future needs as development occurs. This drainage plan serves as a the guide for future development of drainage facilities.

Recommendations:

1. Farmington City should prepare a schedule for implementation of the Storm Drainage Master Plan, including funding proposals.
2. All development should be required to take care of any drainage impacts created and, if necessary, should contribute to the maintenance and construction of the overall drainage system as recommended in the Storm Drainage Master Plan. These contributions may take the form of constructing the portion of the system which the development makes necessary or paying an appropriate impact fee. Participation in completing and maintaining the drainage system and solving any drainage problems created should be a standard condition for approval of all developments.
3. The City should continue to work toward permanent solutions for storm drainage and install needed segments of the system according to the implementation plan as funds permit.
4. UDOT upgrade and improvement of Highway 89 will increase runoff and will impact existing storm conveyance systems. The City should adopt policies that require all highway impacts to be controlled by structured improvements, comply with the City Storm Drainage Master Plan, and mitigate wetlands created by past projects.